

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Off-Label Use of Hydroxychloroquine in the COVID-19 Pandemic

Guidance

The off-label use of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine to treat COVID-19 patients should be considered investigational. Physicians are urged to proceed with caution in the use of these medications for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

The use of hydroxychloroquine can cause serious complications, including hypoglycemia in diabetic and non-diabetic patients, heart rhythm disorders, and seizures, among others. Physicians and other providers should exercise extreme caution before prescribing hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine for COVID-19. Please pay close attention to guidance provided by the FDA, the CDC, and other well-accepted medical authorities.

Below are some links to resources that may provide assistance. We suggest you check this site frequently for updates:

FDA Emergency Use Authorization For Use of Chloroquine Phosphate or Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate (March 28, 2020)
<https://www.fda.gov/media/136534/download>

FDA Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of Hydroxychloroquine (April 3, 2020)
<https://www.fda.gov/media/136537/download>

Yazdany, J. and Kim, A, "Use of Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine During the COVID-19 Pandemic: What Every Clinician Should Know," published online by Annals of Internal Medicine (March 31, 2020) <https://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2764199/use-hydroxychloroquine-chloroquine-during-covid-19-pandemic-what-every-clinician>

Joint Statement of FSMB and NABP in Inappropriate Prescribing and Dispensing of Medications During the COVID-19 Pandemic (March 30, 2020) <https://nabp.pharmacy/newsroom/news/joint-statement-of-fsmb-and-nabp-on-inappropriate-prescribing-and-dispensing-of-medications-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

American College of Cardiology, "Ventricular Arrhythmia Risk Due to Hydroxychloroquine-Azithromycin Treatment for COVID-19" (March 29, 2020) <https://www.acc.org/latest-in-cardiology/articles/2020/03/27/14/00/ventricular-arrhythmia-risk-due-to-hydroxychloroquine-azithromycin-treatment-for-covid-19>

Ghali, G.E. Position paper on the outpatient use of hydroxychloroquine with and without azithromycin in non-hospitalized patients http://www.lsbme.la.gov/sites/default/files/documents/In%20The%20News%20Items/GHALI_0.pdf